

## CONTROLLING TRANSMIT DUTY CYCLE BY POSITION OF COVER

### Related Application

5           This application is related to, and applicants hereby claim the benefit of the prior filing date of, co-pending provisional application No. 60/202,309, entitled "Controlling Transmit Duty Cycle by Position of Cover", filed May 5, 2000, by the identical inventors as the inventors of the present application, and which is hereby fully incorporated by reference herein.

### Field of the Invention

10           This invention relates in general to portable, wireless communication devices, and more specifically controlling a duty cycle of the transmitter of a portable, wireless communication device.

### Background of the Invention

20           Controlling a duty cycle of a transmitter is generally known; but controlling the duty cycle of a transmitter of a portable, wireless, communications device, such as a pager or a cellular telephone, by a position of a cover or another part of the housing of the device is not known.

25           With portable, wireless communications devices having a cover, the immediate environment of the device is usually different depending upon whether the cover is in an opened position or in a closed position. When the cover is in the opened position, the device is usually being used; and, therefore, the immediate area around the device is clear, except for possibly being held in the a hand of a user. When the cover is in the closed position, the display and/or keyboard are not accessible to a user; and, therefore, the device is often in storage. The immediate area  
30           around the device when in storage is less likely to be clear of other objects; and, as a result of the other objects, the propagation of a signal transmitted by the device diminished. Often, the storage location, such as a mobile storage location, is only temporarily detrimental to propagation of transmitted radio signals.

For portable, wireless communications devices operating using a wireless, digital, time-division protocol, transmissions are made in one or more packets of information with each packet comprising a portion of a message. As a result, when the device in mobile storage location is temporarily in a weak signal condition, there is a great probability that, disadvantageously, none of the packets of information will be successfully transmitted. However, if the packets comprising a message were transmitted with a greater period of time between transmissions of packets, it is more likely that some of the packets would be successfully transmitted.

Thus, there is need to control the duty cycle in response to the position of the cover of the device, and thereby, indirectly, to control the duty cycle of the device when the device is likely to be in a storage location, in order to increase the probability that at least some of the packets be successfully transmitted.

#### Brief Description of the Drawings

**FIG. 1** is a perspective view of a battery powered, portable, wireless communications transceiver device in accordance with the invention, with a cover in an opened position.

**FIG. 2** is a perspective view of the device of **FIG. 1**, with the cover in a closed position.

**FIG. 3** is a timing diagram illustrating the transmission format of a wireless, digital, time-division protocol utilized by the device of **FIG. 1** in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

**FIG. 4** is a timing diagram illustrating the use of the protocol of **FIG. 3** utilized by the device of **FIG. 1** in accordance with the prior art.

**FIG. 5** is a timing diagram illustrating the use of the protocol of **FIG. 3** utilized by the device of **FIG. 1** in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

**FIG. 6** is a flow diagram showing steps executed by the device of **FIG. 1** with regard to controlling the duty cycle in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

## Description of a Preferred Embodiment

Referring to **FIG. 1**, a battery powered, portable, wireless communications transceiver device, or device, **10**, has a housing **11** comprising a first portion **12** having a keyboard **13** and a second portion **14** having a display **15**. The second portion **14** also has an antenna **16**. Device **10** has a transmitter (not shown) preferably within the first portion **12**. The transmitter is coupled to the antenna **16**. The device **10** has a controller (not shown), preferably a microprocessor, coupled to the transmitter. The first portion **12** and the second portion **14** are mechanically connected by connection means, preferably a hinge **17**. The second portion is movable into at least two positions, first position and a second position, relative to the first portion. The device **10** has a sensor, preferably an electro-mechanical sensor, (not shown) for detecting whether the housing is in an opened position (cover open) or in a closed position (cover closed). The sensor is coupled, preferably electrically, to the controller. Alternatively, the sensor is coupled, preferably electrically, directly to the transmitter. When the housing **11** is in the opened position as shown in **FIG. 1**, the keyboard **13** can be operated and the display **15** can be viewed. When the housing **11** is in the closed position as shown in **FIG. 2**, the keyboard **13** cannot be operated and the display **15** cannot be viewed. However, the transmitter can be actuated when the housing is in either the opened position or in the closed position. The controller controls the starting and the stopping of the transmitter, i.e., the transmit duty cycle of the transmitter, in accordance with the invention as set forth in more detail herein below.

**FIG. 3** is a timing diagram **30** illustrating the transmission format of a wireless, digital, time-division protocol utilized by the device **10** in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. The device **10** operates using a wireless, digital, time-division protocol, preferably the Global System for Mobile Applications (GSM) protocol, or the Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) protocol. The GSM protocol has eight time slots **32** per cycle **31** with each time slot having a duration of 577 microseconds. One version of the TDMA protocol has six time slots per cycle with each time slot having a duration of 6.56 milliseconds. In both protocols, the transmission rate varies from four to thirteen kilobits per second. The GSM and TDMA protocols are more fully described in *Digital Cellular*

*Communications System (Phase 2+); Multiplexing and Multiple Access on the Radio Path (GSM 05.02 Version 6.5.0 Release 1997)*, published, 1999, by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute, Valbonne, France, which is hereby fully incorporated by reference herein.

5           Wireless transmissions of a message by (i.e., from) the device are made in one or more packets of information. When a message is transmitted in more than one packet, each packet comprises a portion of the message. Typically, shorter messages are transmitted entirely in one packet, and longer messages are transmitted in more than one packet. However, any message greater than one bit in size can, in general,  
10       be transmitted using more than one packet.

**FIG. 4** is a timing diagram **40** illustrating the use of the protocol utilized by the device **10** in accordance with the prior art. When, because of the size of a relatively large (i.e., long) message, the entire message cannot be transmitted within a single time slot, prior art methods transmit packets of the message in an assigned time slot in adjacent cycles of the protocol until the entire message is transmitted. For  
15       example, prior art devices would transmit packets of the message in time slot #5 of every cycle, without skipping any cycle, until the entire message is transmitted. Therefore, prior art devices transmits the message over a relatively short period, and prior art devices have no capability to spread the transmission of the message over a  
20       longer period. The device **10** in accordance with the invention allows the aforesaid prior art method to be used, if the housing is in the opened position. However, unlike the prior art, the device **10** in accordance with the invention can spread the transmission of the packets of the message over a relatively long period, if the housing is in the closed position.

25           **FIG. 5** is a timing diagram **50** illustrating a first example of the use of the protocol utilized by the device **10** in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. When, because of the size of a relatively large (i.e., long) message, the entire message cannot be transmitted within a single time slot, the device **10** in accordance with the invention advantageously transmits packets of the message in an assigned time slot in non-adjacent cycles of the protocol until the entire message is  
30       transmitted, if the housing is in the closed position. In this first example, the device transmits packets of the message in time slot #5 of every other cycle, i.e., the device skips a cycle, until the entire message is transmitted. **FIG. 5** shows the transmission

of packets in time slot #5 of cycle #1, cycle #3 and cycle #5 of the protocol. **FIG. 5** is a simplification for purposes of illustration. The transmission of packets also occurs in succeeding odd-numbered cycles until the entire message is transmitted. The invention is not limited to starting transmissions in slot #1 of a cycle; nor is the invention limited to using odd numbered time slots.

As an alternative example (not shown), the device **10** in accordance with the invention transmits packets of the message in time slot #5 of every third cycle, i.e., the device skips two cycles, until the entire message is transmitted. This method can be generalized to transmitting every  $n^{\text{th}}$  cycle. The controller of the device receives a signal from the sensor regarding the position (opened or closed) of the housing **11**. The controller is programmable as to whether it responds to the position of the housing **11** and therefore advantageously spreads the transmission of a message over a longer period than prior art methods, or whether it ignores the position of the housing and always transmits a message over a shortest possible period as in the prior art method, regardless of the position of the housing. The controller is also programmable with regard to the value of  $n$ . The controller is programmable through use of the keyboard **13**.

**FIG. 6** is a flow diagram **60** showing a specific example of the steps of a method executed by the controller of the device **10** in accordance with the invention, when  $n = 2$ . The method starts at step **61**. At step **62**, the controller determines whether the housing is closed. If the housing is closed, then, at step **63**, the controller sets the device to a pre-set transmit duty cycle of "transmit duty cycle/2", which is pre-stored in the device. At step **65**, the controller causes the transmitter to operate in accordance with the invention, i.e., increasing the period over which a relatively longer message is transmitted. The transmit duty cycle of "transmit duty cycle/2" means that the device doubles the period over which a relatively longer message is transmitted, and that the device transmits packets of the message in a same-numbered time slot of every other cycle, i.e., the device skips a cycle between transmissions, until the entire message is transmitted, similar to the first example, above (see **FIG. 5**).

On the other hand, if, at step **62**, the controller determined that the housing not closed, i.e., is opened, then, at step **64**, the controller sets the device to a pre-set transmit duty cycle of "transmit duty cycle/1", which is also pre-stored in the device, and, in such case, at step **65**, the controller causes the transmitter to operate in the

prior art mode. In either case, the method ends at step 66 after transmissions of all the packets of the message.

The invention is not limited to controlling the transmit duty cycle by the position of the cover of the device 10, but is equally applicable to controlling the transmit duty cycle by a relative position of any portion of the housing 11 of the device relative to another portion of the housing of the device. Furthermore, the invention is not limited to controlling the transmit duty cycle by the relative position of any portion of the housing 11 of the device 10 relative to another portion of the housing of the device, but is equally applicable to controlling the transmit duty cycle based upon whether the device is in a storage location, such as whether the device is in a holster or case.

Advantageously, the transmitter of the device 10 in accordance with the invention rests during all time slots of one or more cycles between the cycles during which the device does transmit. A device in accordance with the invention has the advantage of allowing the battery that powers the device to last longer, and also has the advantage that at least some of packets of a message will be successfully transmitted when the device is in locations of poor transmission, because the probability that the device would be moved between transmissions increases as the interval between transmission of packets increases.

While a detailed description of the preferred embodiments of the invention has been given, it should be appreciated that many variations can be made thereto without departing from the scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims. For example, the invention is not limited to being used with the Global System for Mobile Applications (GSM) protocol, or the Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) protocol, but can be used with other time-division protocols. The invention is not limited to controlling the transmit duty cycle by the position of the cover, or flip, of the device, but can be extended to controlling the transmit duty cycle based upon other criteria to determine whether radio signals cannot propagate from the device as readily as when the device is in a clear, or open, location.

We claim: